



## Message from the Principal...

### ...Coming Up...

#### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences will take place April 18th and 19th.

#### ECAs

ECAs will begin April 9th.

#### Re-enrollment

If you have not already submitted your request to re-enroll your child at SZPAB for the 2017-18 school year, please do so as soon as possible. Enrollments are now open for new students and demand across all grades is high. Securing your child's place now will avoid disappointment later.

#### Changes to Communication

Recently, we asked you to fill in a survey regarding school communication. As always, we try to incorporate your feedback in our day-to-day practices. After listening to feedback from the majority of parents, we will no longer be using My Learning for homework and communications. Please see your child's individual teacher for how homework and information will be sent home during Term 3.

Dear Parents;

First of all, I would like to reflect on a very successful Term 2, which climaxed with our school ski trip to France. This superbly run trip symbolizes the outstanding opportunities we are providing for students at SZPAB. I hope that all of our students will have a range of activities and events that they can participate in and enjoy during their time at the school.

Even before beginning Term 3, I am excited about the events that will be taking place. During the first week, a group of Grade 7 and 8 students will be representing the school at the Emirates Skills Competition at ADNEC, where they have been invited to demonstrate our state-of-the-art use of digital technology to visitors.

Our ECAs will be running from Week 1 and our swim squad will be taking part in its first inter-school competition in Dubai. Our school's Heritage Club will also be organizing events during the term.

Of course, this term is also about academic progress and we will be keeping a very close eye on MAP results. With Ramadan falling in May and June, we will have less curriculum time than usual, so we will be working hard with our students to make sure they are ready and prepared for their end of year exams in June.

SZPAB will continue to grow in student numbers from September, when we introduce Grade 9. We are currently busy making sure that we recruit the best possible teachers for the next academic year so that we continue the great momentum that we have so far established. We are very lucky to have such supportive parents. Please continue to support us this term by emphasizing the importance of perfect attendance and preparation for MAP testing.

Yours in education;  
Mr John Conway

## Digital Learning Update

### Student Digital Leaders

The student digital leaders met again this week, and they are working on two small projects. They will deliver an assembly to Grades 4 to 8 next term about internet safety. The digital leaders are also devising an animated presentation, using PowToon, to show teachers and students how they can support them.

### Grade 3 to 8 iPad Reminders

Please make sure that your son/daughter comes to school every day with their iPad fully charged and in its protective case. If you need to purchase a new case, please contact Emma Hannon at [emma.hannon@zayedacademyboys.ae](mailto:emma.hannon@zayedacademyboys.ae).

The students have been reminded about the importance of not taking pictures or videos of anyone without their agreement. Students should also not use their iPad camera or video unless they have a teacher's permission.



### KG Film Premiere

Last Thursday KG2D hosted the premiere of their film, 'A Knight in the Castle'. Special guests Ms. Mariam, Mr. John and Ms. Honey, along with other invited teachers and students, walked the red carpet at this special event.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the film and were very impressed with the students' writing and acting skills. Special thanks to Ms. Courtenay and Ms. Janna for making all this happen!



## Grades 6-8 Writing Competition

Recently, as part of the My Identity and English programs, the EAL department held a Persuasive Writing Competition, open to students in Grades 6 to 8. Students were given the choice of three topics to write about.

- Who is the best player on the Emirates National Football Team? Why?
- Which is the best city to live in in the UAE? Why?
- What was the greatest lesson Sheikh Zayed ever taught us? Why?

More than 70 students entered - we would like to congratulate them all for their enthusiasm and their contributions. A panel of 3 teachers narrowed the entries to 9 finalists. All members of the school community were then invited to vote for their favorite piece of writing. Certificates and merits were awarded to the students below during their weekly assembly. Congratulations to all winners!



Most Votes  
Conor Conway 8A

Students' Choice  
Zayed Saif Al Mazrouei 7A



Special Mention  
Abdulla Al Zaabi 7D

Runner-Up  
Mohamed Al Shamsi 8B



## April is Literacy Month At SZPAB!

During the month of April, SZPAB will support *Abu Dhabi Reads* by focusing on reading enrichment activities with students. This ADEC initiative aims to spread a love of reading among students and the wider community. This annual campaign, which celebrates the Arabic and English languages, was launched in April 2013. We look forward to making April an exciting and empowering month for our students.

In support of this initiative, we have invited Little Thinkers UAE to host our Spring Book Fair beginning April 26th.



### SZPAB International Ski Trip

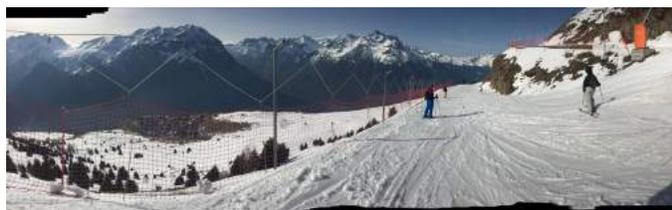
The first ever SZPAB international trip to the small, snow covered village of Alpe D'Huez on the Swiss/French border was a success. The conditions were perfect with temperatures of around 8 degrees and large amounts of snow on the mountains. I have taken away a lot of UK schools in my teaching career but this was my first group from the UAE and they really did set the standard high.

The boys were very courteous and respectful and made us all very proud to be part of the SZPAB family. The top group were skiing better than some of the staff by the end of the week and were even skiing the Sarenne - the longest ski route in Europe, stretching 15km! The boys really did grow each day. Students handled not only the physical but the emotional side of the trip very well. Some of them had never even seen snow before, never mind a set of skis. It was amazing to see them out of their comfort zone, adapting to a new country (and new food!) and learning a new skill.

A lot of hard work went into arranging the trip and it was fantastic to see the end product first hand! The staff who attended the trip - Mr. Andrew, Mr. Josh, Mr. Rhys and Mr. Yousef - helped make it a memorable one for the children and I'm sure everyone in the community appreciate their help and support.

I am huge advocate for learning outside of the classroom and international trips and am sure parents and staff will see the buzz from the boys and also developments in their fitness, confidence and independence.

By Andrew Marsh



[www.zayedacademy.ae/boys](http://www.zayedacademy.ae/boys)  
[www.gemseducation.com](http://www.gemseducation.com)



## When Learning is Easier, Life is Simpler

Just before the holidays, the Learning Support Teachers and the Learning Assistants at SZPAB attended a workshop facilitated by Dots and Links.

The purpose of the workshop was to explain how different cognitive skills such as memory, logic, and processing affect learning; and for participants to experience first-hand how it feels to have a cognitive weakness. The more learning assistants are aware and can understand reasons for learning difficulties, the easier it will be for them to help children in the classroom.

The workshop also gave first-hand experiences about what brain training is, and how it works.

Change is the end result of all true learning, and we at SZPAB are dedicated to the process of growth and change all the way through the year with more sessions and topics to address.

## Multiplication Competition

In the last week of March, all 74 children in Grade 3 competed in a multiplication challenge. There were 5 leagues separated according to times tables.

League 1 Winner Ali Al Mahmeed  
 League 2 Winner Abdul Rahman Al Zaabi  
 League 3 Winner Maha Al Khyeli  
 League 4 Winner Rashed Al Harmoodi  
 League 5 Winner Saoud Al Raesi

Grade 3 hopes to host another competition in May, and invites the Grade 4 and Grade 5 classes to compete as well!

